

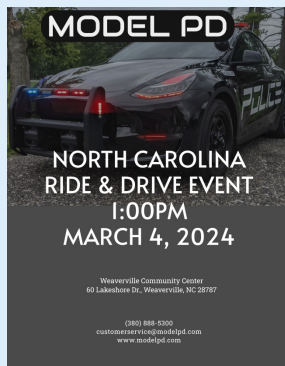


FEBRUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER

Welcome! The Land of Sky Regional Council's Clean Vehicles Coalition monthly newsletter is a curation of the top content for the month, including news, upcoming events, and more. The Coalition is actively working with local and regional partners to develop projects and secure funding to increase the use of alternative fuel vehicles in the Western North Carolina region. Follow us on social media to learn more!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Model PD Ride and Drive Event - Mar 4



Come on out to the North Carolina Ride and Drive event for Model PD on March 4 at 1 p.m. at the Weaverville Community Center! The event will feature their new TESLA Model PD, a car built for police officers, as well as educational opportunities for all in attendance.

Annual Fleet Data Survey

The time is upon us again to reach out and collect your fleet data from 2023. This data collection is a crucial part of the work that we do. It allows us to visualize progress and problems encountered and to establish a plan to navigate the coming year's opportunities. Fill out the Annual Fleet Data Survey today!

[Access Blank Form Here](#)

Waynesville Community EV Preparedness - Jan 29

The Waynesville Community Preparedness event with the NFPA went off without a hitch! This two-part event started with an educational portion on EVs. To conclude the event, LOSCVC held a proctored conversation on EV adoption, giving attendees a chance to discuss potential hurdles in the future of EV implementation. Throughout, attendees had great questions and lively discussions, and EV owners were on hand to answer all the questions about the cars at the event.



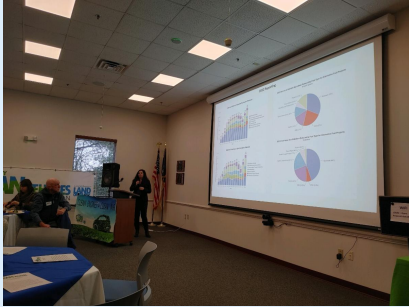
Reynolds Fire Dept. Training Night with Blue Ridge EV Club - Jan 23

LOSCVC collaborated with the Blue Ridge EV Club to equip first responders with Reynolds and Garren Creek fire departments with essential resources for handling incidents involving EVs.

Shoutout to the Reynolds Volunteer Fire Department for their dedication to enhancing their response capabilities! Check out more photos showcasing the event on their Facebook page.

Stay tuned for more updates on future training opportunities!





Big thanks to all who attended the Second Annual Awards luncheon with the LOSCVC! Awardees, including the Town of Weaverville, Biltmore Estate, Ingles, Keith B Bamberger (NCDAQ), and many of our stakeholders, were present.

Attendees received updates on the CCEEJI clean transportation initiative with the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. The event also featured an informative presentation about hydrogen in medium and heavy-duty transportation.

Awards given include fleet leadership, alternative fuels adoption, and Community Champion for a long-time investment in campaigning for clean air in Western North Carolina.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

NEVI's Charging Station Plans Released

NCDOT released the new **NEVI** plans, outlining the proposed locations of 11 electric vehicle charging stations for Round 1 funding across North Carolina. These locations are along designated alternative fuel corridors, each location representing a "cluster" of one or more exits, with one charging station installation per cluster.

Unfortunately, the funding allocation excludes Western North Carolina, with the furthest west locations being Old Fort and Marion. Despite North Carolina expecting up to \$109 million for EV infrastructure development along approved corridors, there are currently no infrastructure plans for the western part of the state.



CFI Grant News

Unfortunately, our local CFI (Charging and Fueling Infrastructure) application was not

awarded in the first round of announcements from Federal Highways. However, we remain determined and optimistic, actively seeking alternative avenues for funding, including potentially submitting another application this summer when the second round of CFI funding is announced. If you have an idea for a project that could apply for this opportunity, please reach out to us.

IN THE NEWS

Climate Mayors Rally Behind Biden: Urging Finalization of Cleaner Truck Standards

Over 300 mayors nationwide have come together in a letter, urging President Biden to finalize a rule aimed at cleaner heavy-duty vehicles. They advocate for a transition to electric vehicles, emphasizing benefits such as cleaner air and reduced carbon emissions. Additionally, they stress the importance of nationwide coordination and aligning investments to support electric truck manufacturing and infrastructure expansion. This collective effort underscores the urgent need for sustainable transportation solutions.

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Weaverville Makes a case for Police EVs by Justin McGuire

"Small-town officials in Western North Carolina agree on one thing: Electric vehicles will be a big part of transportation planning in their communities."

[Read More](#)

Asheville's transportation landscape is garnering significant attention, sparking discussion across the community.



Multi-million-dollar loss for Asheville as flawed electric buses sit idle by Kimberly King

"The city of Asheville's purchase of five electric buses in 2018 has turned into a multi-million-dollar loss."

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Answer Man: Asheville having electric bus woes? Reservoir water level OK? Will Speaker Mike Johnson be at local dinner? by John Boyle

"Today's round of questions, my smart-aleck replies and the real answers: Question: Why is Asheville discontinuing their purchases of environmentally friendly buses like the four-year old electric vehicles, as well as the 13-year old hybrid buses this coming year with the traditional diesel buses that I thought the city was trying to get away from?"

Read More

OUR STORY AND THE CLEAN CITIES PROGRAM

The Clean Vehicles Coalition is a Clean Cities program of Land of Sky Regional Council in the Western North Carolina area. The Coalition was designated by the United States Department of Energy on July 26, 2012, as an official Clean Cities program for the five-county area surrounding Asheville, including Buncombe, Henderson, Haywood, Madison and Transylvania counties. Clean Cities is a program of the United States Department of Energy that works with states and communities across the country to promote the use of cleaner, alternative fuels and vehicles. Cleaner/alternative fuels include compressed natural gas, propane, ethanol, biodiesel, electricity, and hydrogen. Click the images below to learn more.



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